

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At page 32, please delete the Abstract beginning on line 6 (as amended in the Response to Office Action dated November 3, 2004) and replace with the following:

~~An efficient~~ A caching mechanism for JAVA RMI remote objects is provided. In order to efficiently implement a cache for these connection objects, the client JVM may hold a normal reference to the object while the connection is in use and for a period of time thereafter. A thread is used as a timer for each connection. After that period of time expires, only a weak reference is held by the client JVM and the connection may be garbage collected. The period of time may be adjusted. A shorter time may be used to ensure responsiveness of the server JVM to memory demand and shutdown requests, while a longer time may be used to enhance the effectiveness of the caching mechanism by forcing connections to stay open longer after they are no longer being used and before they are automatically destroyed due to garbage collection.